

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2018
7:30 P.M.**

OPENING STATEMENT: Mayor Stephen K. Pote called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD

ROLL CALL

Gibbs [A] Black [P] Nehls [A] Mobus [A] Sopko [P] Alberto [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance.

There were 14 members of the public present

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Pote administered the Oath of office to Councilwoman Maria Alberto as her daughter Leah held the Bible and her husband, Charles stood beside her.

Mayor Pote reported changes on the Councilmanic Committee assignments for 2018.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pote read a proclamation for “American Red Cross” month (copy attached) and presented a copy of it to Christy Hodde, a representative of the American Red Cross.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance – No report was submitted. However, Mr. Atkins said Mr. Hance and he sent the 2018 Budget to everyone and since Councilmembers are requesting a meeting to discuss this the only available day is next Monday, March 5th. All were in agreement to have a Special meeting, Monday, March 5th at 7 PM.
2. Police – Mr. Atkins said the recruitment process is down to a couple of candidates and there will be a recommendation to the Police Committee next week for two (2) probationary officers.
3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – No report was submitted.
4. Public Affairs:

Open Space – Councilman Sopko said a meeting should be scheduled for the end of the month and he will bring Councilwoman Alberto up to date. Mayor Pote suggested both Councilman Sopko and Councilwoman Alberto attend at least one meeting together.

Environmental – No report was submitted.

Recreation – Councilman Sopko reported the Summer Camp is ready to accept applications immediately. Mr. Atkins said Watchung residents have priority to sign up until April 16th, then it will be opened to other towns.

Historical – No report was submitted.

Board of Health – Councilman Black reported the next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for March 21st at 7:00 pm.

5. Fire – Councilman Black reported a meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 5th at 8:00 AM at which time they will discuss the truck and building renovations.

6. Laws/Ordinances – No report was submitted.

REPORTS - OTHER:

- 7. Engineer – No report was submitted
- 8. Police Chief – No report was submitted
- 9. Fire Department – No report was submitted
- 10. Rescue Squad – No report was submitted
- 11. Emergency Management – Mr. Atkins reported the OEM manual is being worked on for submission to the State Police, and County OEM.
- 12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz had no report and said there will be no executive session for this evening.
- 13. Clerk – Ms. DeRocco reported Chief Pivnichny has given her dates for Berkeley Heights to bring their fire truck to the Borough for everyone to see.
- 14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins wished Councilwoman Alberto well in her new position. Mr. Atkins then said the Borough was awarded a Grant from the Department of Transportation for \$496,000 for construction costs to resurface High Tor Drive. He also said Councilwoman Alberto and Bob Burns had a meeting yesterday at the Ness Property with a company about the demolition of the Barn. Councilwoman Alberto said the company is prepared to act immediately and they would make something for the Borough with some of the wood. She said they would only want help with getting a dumpster.

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PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Peter Martino – Sunbright Road questioned Resolution R9 for change orders. He said he received information that a Fire Suppression Hood is not required by code. Councilman Black said there are differences of opinion on this and it will be discussed at the meeting on Monday. Mr. Atkins said the change order tonight does not include the suppression system.

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda Items listed below were unanimously accepted, following a motion by Councilman Black, and second by Councilman Sopko.

Prior to the vote Councilman Black requested Approval of Council minutes be pulled for separate vote.

Councilman Black moved Consent Agenda Items as amended with a second by Councilman Sopko and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Black, Sopko, Alberto, “aye.”

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Planning Board Meeting Minutes - October 17th, November 21st, December 19, 2017
Historical Committee Strategic Plan – 2018

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #5 - NJ American Water Company 2/22/18 Notice of Public Hearing of Petition for Approval of a Distribution System Improvement Charge c: M&C, TEA, Post
- #6 - Township of Bridgewater 2/26/18 Notice of Adoption of Ordinance Amending Chapter 126-248 Entitled “Improvement Guaranties to Conform to Amendments to the Municipal Land Use Law c: M & C, TEA, TH, Planning Board

Prior to moving the approval of the Council minutes Councilman Black questioned if there was a quorum for voting on this. Attorney Albert Cruz stated the Mayor counts toward a quorum and therefore only two Council members are required to vote on this.

Councilman Black moved to approve the following Council minutes with a second by Councilman Sopko and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Black, Sopko, “aye” Alberto, “abstain.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:

February 15, 2018 - Special Meeting, Regular and Executive Session
Regular Meeting, and Executive Session

Councilman Black moved the following resolutions with a second by Councilman Sopko and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Black, Sopko, Alberto, “aye.”

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| R1:03/01/18 | <p>Purchases Over \$2,000 - OSI Technology (PD – Contact & Maint. Phone Sys.)</p> <p>Pacific Lawn Sprinklers (PW – Spratford Park)</p> <p>Caffrey Tree & Landscape (PW– Tree Removal)</p> <p>Grove Lock & Safe Co. (PW–Borough Hall-Electronic Lock)</p> |
| R2: | Authorize Payment of Tax Sale Certificate #16-08 / 17 Sunbright Rd |
| R3: | Authorize Appointments – Historical Committee / Mary Ann Weber, Amber Murad |
| R4: | Authorize Engineer to Endorse Treatment Works Approval Permit for Watchung Associates LLC (708 Mountain Blvd) |
| R5: | Authorize Payment of Tax Sale Certificate #17-04 / 137 Mountain Blvd. |
| R6: | Compliance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records |
| R7: | Authorize Final Payment for Accumulated Benefits/ Daniel Lorimor |
| R8: | Authorize Field Modification Form – Phillips Field / Snack Shack Deck Replacement |
| R9: | Authorize Change Orders #1R and #2 – Cypreco / Fire House Renovation |

Resolution R10 was pulled and will be presented at the March 15th meeting.

R10:03/01/18 Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds

Peter Martino, Sunbright Road, questioned why the Borough does not utilize the Exempt Hall. He said he did research and found a renewed lease agreement between the Borough and the Exempt Firemen dated October 24, 2013. Mr. Martino suggested this could be utilized as a library location. Mayor Pote said there are possibilities and this will be looked at. Councilwoman Alberto asked Mr. Martino if the Mayor and Council have copies of the information he has and he said they do.

Mr. Cruz explained this is a ground lease, the Building was built by the Firemen and it is not owned by the Borough.

Mr. Atkins suggested Mr. Martino should speak to the Exempt Firemen to discuss possibilities.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M. to the Call of the Chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk